REMARKS

The reply filed on November 15, 2009 was deemed not fully responsive because the Applicant's representative stated her opinion as to the status/availability of the requested information. The Request for Information is directed to the Applicant's knowledge of the requested information. A corrected response to the Requirement for Information is herein provided.

37 CFR § 1.105 Requirement for Information

Applicants note that the Requirement for Information was traversed in the Response filed November 15, 2009, and that traversal is re-incorporated herein.

Information is requested under 37 CFR 1.105 "to identify products and services embodying the disclosed subject matter of tracking the status of a workflow and/or utilizing weblogs for project/workflow management/tracking and identify the properties of similar products and services found in the prior art.

Response to Request for Information:

1. "Please provide the citation and a copy of each publication which any of the applicants authored or co-authored and which describe the disclosed subject matter of tracking

the status of a workflow and/or utilizing weblogs for project/workflow management/tracking."

To the best of the Applicants' information and belief, the applicants did not author or co-author any publications describing the disclosed subject matter.

1. "Please provide the citation and a copy of each publication that is a source used for the description of the prior art in the disclosure. For each publication, please provide a concise explanation of that publication's contribution to the description of the prior art."

To the best of the Applicants' information and belief, no publication was directly used for the description of the prior art in the disclosure. That is, no particular publication was relied on to draft the background or specification of the application. However, an IDS is herewith submitted referring to general subject matter.

The following are comments from the applicants regarding "Using Weblogs to Manage IT", which was reviewed by the Applicants at the time the invention disclosure was made. This article was reviewed because it suggests use of blogs for project management:

Using Weblogs to Manage IT

http://www.windley.com/2003/06/04.html

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Applicants' comment (paraphrased): ...the blogs and feeds (of the invention) were not meant to replace workflow systems as stated in the article, but instead meant to augment the workflow system - allowing the benefits of automated systems to be realized while referencing key user involved states when necessary via a blog.

In addition to Applicants' comments – note that this article does not address any application for communication between a workflow and a weblog. Nor does this article address automatic generation of an entry in a weblog to indicate that a workflow action has occurred.

2. "Please provide the citation and a copy of each publication that any of the applicants relied upon to develop the disclosed subject matter that describes the applicant's invention, particularly as to developing a method/system for tracking the status of a workflow and/or utilizing weblogs for project/workflow management/tracking. For each publication, please provide a concise explanation of the reliance placed on that publication in the development of the disclosed subject matter."

To the best of the Applicants' information and belief, the disclosed subject matter was never developed or implemented in a product.

3. "Please provide the citation and a copy of each publication that any of the applicants relied upon to draft the claimed subject matter. For each publication, please provide a concise explanation of the reliance placed on that publication in distinguishing the claimed subject matter from the prior art.

To the best of the Applicants' information and belief, no publications were relied upon to draft the claimed subject matter.

4. "Please provide the names of any products or services that have incorporated the claimed subject matter."

To the best of the Applicants' information and belief, no products or services have incorporated the claimed subject matter.

5. "Please state the specific improvements of the claimed subject matter in claims over the disclosed prior art and indicate the specific elements in the claimed subject matter that provide those improvements. For those claims expressed as means or steps plus function, please provide the specific page and line numbers with the disclosure which describe the claimed structure and acts.

No pending claims employ means or steps plus function language.

In accordance with the invention, instances of workflows are instantiated by a user. (Fig. 2). For each workflow instance, a weblog is generated to track the instance of the workflow. The weblog is accessible to weblog members, some of whom can view it and some of whom can post to it. An application is employed to cause communication between the workflow and the weblog to automatically post an entry in the weblog in indicate that a

workflow action has occurred. This entry is then physically viewable on a display device by weblog members.

The disclosed prior art fails to teach or suggest any environments wherein workflows are instantiated, and an application causes communication between a workflow and a weblog to automatically post an entry in the weblog to indicated that a workflow action has occurred, wherein the weblog is accessible to weblog members, first weblog members with permission to view workflow status and weblog comments, and second weblog members with permission to view workflow status and view and post weblog comments.

Specifically, regarding Claim 1:

The prior art fails to disclose a method for tracking the status of a workflow including the steps of:

instantiating an instance of a workflow by a user, the user being assigned to a role in the workflow, the workflow having a plurality of workflow steps;

generating a weblog to track an instance of the workflow, the weblog accessible to weblog members, first weblog members with permission to view workflow status and weblog comments, and second weblog members with permission to view workflow status and view and post weblog comments; and

employing an application to cause communication between the workflow and the weblog to automatically posting an entry in the weblog to indicate that a workflow action has occurred, the entry being physically viewable on a display device by weblog members.

Regarding Claims 2 – 7, the disclosed prior art fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1, from these claim depend.

Regarding Claim 10, the disclosed prior art specifically fails to disclose a computing system for tracking the status of a workflow, the computing system comprising:

a display screen;

an input device to perform at least one of:

receiving a client request to instantiate an instance of a workflow by a user, the user being assigned to a role in the workflow, the workflow having a plurality of workflow steps;

receiving a client request to generate a weblog for tracking an instance of the workflow, and

a server in communication with the display screen and the input device, the server executing a server application to generate the weblog, the weblog accessible to weblog members, first weblog members with permission to view workflow status and weblog comments, and second weblog members with permission to view workflow status and view and post weblog comments, the server employing an application to cause communication between the workflow and the weblog to automatically post an entry in the weblog to indicate that a workflow action has occurred, the entry being physically viewable on a display device by the weblog members.

Regarding Claims 11 - 12, the disclosed prior art fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 10, from which these claims depend.

Regarding Claim 18, the disclosed prior art fails to disclose a computer program product comprising:

program code for instantiating an instance of a workflow by a user, the user being assigned to a role in the workflow, the workflow having a plurality of workflow steps;

program code for generating a weblog to track an instance of the workflow, the weblog accessible to weblog members, first weblog members with permission to view workflow status weblog comments, and second weblog members with permission to view workflow status and view and post weblog comments; and

program code for causing communication between the workflow and the weblog to automatically post an entry in the weblog to indicate that a workflow action has occurred, the entry being physically viewable on a display device by the weblog members.

Regarding Claims 19 - 21, the disclosed prior art fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 18, from which these claims depend.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks made herein, Applicant(s) submit(s) that the application is in condition for allowance and request early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003 or at cell (617) 901-6786.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 23, 2010
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